



Contact: Zachary Kurz
202-653-7200
TDD/Videophone Users:
Please Call Via Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATUS OF THE U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD DURING A PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Due to the partial shutdown of the federal government that took effect on Saturday, January 31, 2026, the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB or Board) has ceased all operations. This means that the processing of all appeals and other pleadings is suspended, regardless of whether such matters are pending in a Regional or Field Office, before the full Board in Washington, DC, or before an administrative law judge. Most personnel are not available in any MSPB office to answer inquiries during the entirety of a shutdown. **MSPB's e-Appeal system also is not available for the duration of the shutdown but will be reactivated once MSPB reopens.**

MSPB understands that this situation requires adjusting certain deadlines and other processing requirements in many appeals. Therefore, all filing and processing deadlines will be extended by the number of calendar days MSPB is shut down. This extension applies to all deadlines before MSPB, including those at the initial appeal and petition for review levels. Because the extension is automatic, parties are not required to show good cause and should not request an extension. This automatic extension does not apply, however, to any deadlines that passed *before* the date of the shutdown.

Further, all hearings or other matters scheduled with an administrative judge or administrative law judge during the shutdown will be canceled and rescheduled, as necessary, once MSPB reopens.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board or the appropriate MSPB Regional or Field Office after the shutdown ends. Telephone and e-mail addresses are located on the Agency Contact Center of MSPB's website (www.mspb.gov).

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.